

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 01175 270026Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
-----040463 272320Z /75

R 260950Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6408
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1175

E.O. 11652: GDX-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WAKE OF CRACKDOWN ON STUDENTS
AND NEWSPAPERS

REF: JAKARTA 1127 (DTG 250959Z JAN 78)

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE NEGOTIATING
WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS TO END THE BAN ON JAKARTA DAILIES BUT
ARE MEETING STUBBORN RESISTANCE FROM UNIVERSITY RECTORS ON
SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINAR HARAPAN EDITOR SABAN SIAGIAN TELLS US THAT MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING (JAN 26) BETWEEN EDITORS OF BANNED
NEWSPAPERS ACTING AND INFORMATION MINISTER SUDHARMONO ON CONDITIONS
FOR RESUMING PUBLICATION CONTINUED THROUGHOUT DAY AND WILL RESUME
TOMORROW. HE PREDICTS AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BUT BELIEVES
OVERALL PRESS-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP HAS SUFFERED LONG
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LASTING SETBACK.

3. DURING MBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL TODAY (ARRANGED
PRIOR TO RECENT CRACKDOWN ON STUDENTS), UNIVERSITY OF
INDONESIA RECTOR MAHAR MARDJONO CONFIRMED THAT HE AND OTHER
RECTORS HAD REFUSED TO EXPEL STUDENTS UNLESS THEY WERE CON-
VICTED OF A CRIME. IF FORCED TO EXPEL STUDENTS UNDER OTHER

CONDITIONS, RECTORS OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES WOULD STEP DOWN, HE SAID. MARDJONO GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD ALREADY OFFERED RESIGNATION, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), BUT SAID ONLY HALF JOKINGLY THAT HE WAS REFUSING TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS LATER THIS YEAR. MARDJONO SAID HE HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO CONTROL OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND HAD STATED HE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECURITY AUTHORITIES, HE HAD ATTRIBUTED RECENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-SUHARTO ON-CAMPUS PROPAGANDA (INCLUDING A LARGE SIGN READING "SUHARTO GO TO HELL") TO INTRUDERS AND WARNED THAT, IF THEY WERE NOT STOPPED, HE MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY. (COMMENT: MARDJONO MAY HAVE BEEN INTIMATING THAT PROVOCATEURS FROM ALI MURTOPO'S INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION WERE BEHIND THESE ACTIVITIES.)

4. KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO IN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY EXPLAINED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORCED TO UNDERTAKE CRACKDOWN WHEN IT DISCOVERED PLOT TO STAGE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS ON JAN 21 WHICH WOULD HAVE CRIPPLED CAPITAL CITY. HE SAID 143 STUDENTS AND 15 NON-STUDENTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND 10 STUDENT SUSPECTS ARE STILL AT LARGE. FONDEPT HAS SCHEDULED BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN PRESS AND EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHES FOR TOMORROW MORNING.

5. ARMED FORCES NEWSPAPER FEATURED FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MEETING YESTERDAY IN WHICH
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DEPUTY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER SURONO APPEARED PROMINENTLY AND WHICH WAS PROBABLY MEANT TO SQUELCH RUMORS THAT HE IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE TRACED SOME OF THESE RUMORS TO MILITARY FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL ALI MURTOPO, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT SURONO HAS ENEMIES CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Markings:
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